

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Homer Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 6, 2022

CONTACT: Jan Rumble and Elisa Russ
Groundfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Cook Inlet Area
Sablefish Season Opens

The Cook Inlet Area sablefish season will open July 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 119,000 lb.

The fishery GHL is adjusted each year in proportion to the annual percentage change in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for sablefish set by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) for federal waters of the CGOA. The ABC is based on biomass estimates generated from annual surveys conducted by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the Gulf of Alaska. The 2022 CGOA ABC increased by 24% from 2021, the GHL for the Cook Inlet Area was adjusted from 96,000 lb in 2021 to 119,000 lb in 2022.

A vessel may not land or have on board more than 3,000 lb of sablefish (round weight) in any two consecutive day period. All state-waters sablefish harvest must be landed within 24 hours of the closure (5 AAC 28.371). Also, in accordance with 5 AAC 28.360 (e), **a vessel retaining sablefish in federal waters may not operate gear in state waters of the Cook Inlet Area during the same trip.**

There is a **6-hour prior notice of landing (PNOL)** for the Cook Inlet Area sablefish fishery (5 AAC 28.360 (d)). Vessel operators are required to contact ADF&G after each sablefish trip by telephoning (907) 226-2121 at least 6 hours prior to landing and reporting the following: 1) vessel name and ADF&G number, 2) date and location of landing, 3) estimated time of arrival, 4) buyer or processor, 5) estimated pounds of sablefish onboard, and 6) if sablefish is whole or dressed.

In addition, log sheets are required and must: 1) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of hooks or the number of pots fished, the average depth of each set fished, and the time gear is deployed and hauled for each set; 2) include for the target species, and for each bycatch species, the number of fish retained and discarded; 3) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation; and 4) be made available to a local representative of ADF&G upon request. Additionally, the completed log sheets must be submitted to ADF&G no later than seven days following delivery and correspond with each ADF&G sablefish fish ticket.

Vessels participating in the Cook Inlet Area sablefish fishery must remain inside state waters of the Cook Inlet Area for the entire trip when retaining sablefish from state waters during that trip. Sablefish IFQ-holders who

want to participate in this fishery should contact NMFS enforcement in Kodiak (907-486-3298), Homer (907-235-2337), or Seward (907-224-5348) prior to fishing.

Groundfish pots may be longlined in the sablefish fishery; at least one marked buoy must be attached to each end of the longline and no more than 15 groundfish pots may be attached to the same line (5 AAC 28.330 (c)).

Any vessel retaining sablefish during the Cook Inlet Area sablefish season must possess a Cook Inlet Area sablefish registration. To register for the Cook Inlet Area sablefish fishery, fishers must present a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) sablefish (statewide) permit card for the appropriate gear type. A vessel may not be registered for more than one groundfish registration area at a time. To change registration areas, a vessel owner or agent must notify ADF&G in Homer. Registrations and log sheets may be obtained from ADF&G offices in Homer, Cordova, and Anchorage. Participants are encouraged to register by phone/fax by contacting the Homer ADF&G office at (907) 235-8191 (fax: 907-235-2448).

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer at (907) 235-8191.

-end-